

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-36 (Canceled).

37. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method, comprising:

generating a plurality of subdirectory names, wherein each subdirectory name is random and unique relative to each other name of the plurality;

creating a plurality of ~~randomly-named~~ cache directories, and naming each according to one for each random subdirectory name generated, such that each ~~randomly-named~~ cache directory ~~created~~ is uniquely associated with a ~~corresponding randomly-named subdirectory~~ random subdirectory name;

storing a plurality of files under the plurality of randomly-named cache directories such that a stored file includes a random name in its path unknown to malicious content and thereby cannot be invoked by the malicious content to execute, including when each of the plurality of files having the file has a predictable filename; and

automatically balancing the files among each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories.

38. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 37 further comprising, receiving information corresponding to a new file to store.

39. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 37, wherein automatically balancing files among each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories includes determining which of the directories has a least number of files therein.

40. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 37, wherein automatically balancing files among each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories includes determining when a randomly-named cache directory has a number of files stored therein that exceeds a limit.

41. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 37, further comprising, receiving information corresponding to a new file to store, determining that each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories has a number of files therein that exceeds a limit, and automatically creating at least one new randomly-named cache directory.

42. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 37 further comprising, for each file, tracking which of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories that file is stored in.

43. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 37 further comprising, maintaining a count of a number of files stored in each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories.

44. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 37 wherein at least one of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories caches content downloaded from a server.

45. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 44 further comprising, maintaining a table including server content references and filenames converted therefrom.

46. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 37, wherein automatically balancing files among each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories includes determining a randomly-named cache directory having a lowest file count, and moving files from another randomly-named cache directory to the randomly-named cache directory having the lowest file count.

47. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 37, further comprising, maintaining an index including a directory name for each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories, and for each directory name, maintaining a file count of a number of files stored therein.

48. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 37, further comprising, comparing the number of files in one of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories having the least number of files therein against a predetermined threshold value, and based on the comparison, generating at least one additional randomly-named cache directory.

49. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 37, further comprising, maintaining an indexed directory table including data corresponding to each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories therein, and maintaining a table including file information and corresponding file directory information for each file in one of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories.

50. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 37, wherein automatically balancing files among each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories includes moving at least one file from one of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories to another of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories following deletion of at least one other file.

51. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 37, further comprising maintaining a file count of a number of files stored in each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories, and wherein automatically balancing files among each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories includes moving at least one file out of one of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories to avoid degraded performance when the file count maintained therefor ~~is below~~ achieves a threshold value.

52. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 51, further comprising removing one of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories based on the file count maintained therefor.

53-67. (Canceled)

68. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for:

generating a plurality of subdirectory names, wherein each subdirectory name is random and unique relative to each other name of the plurality;

creating a plurality of ~~randomly-named~~ cache directories, and naming each according to one for each random subdirectory name generated, such that each ~~random-named~~ cache directory is uniquely associated with a ~~corresponding randomly-named subdirectory~~ random subdirectory name;

storing a plurality of files under the plurality of randomly-named cache directories such that a stored file includes a random name in its path, including when that stored file has each of the plurality of files having a predictable filename; and

automatically balancing the files among each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories such that a count associated with the number of files in each cache directory remains below a threshold count, to avoid degraded performance.

69. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 68, further comprising computer-executable instructions for comparing the number of files in one of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories having the least number of files therein against a predetermined threshold value, and based on the comparison, generating at least one additional randomly-named cache directory.

70. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 68, further comprising computer-executable instructions for maintaining an indexed directory table including data corresponding to each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories therein, and maintaining a table including file information and corresponding file directory information for each file in one of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories.

71. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 68 wherein automatically balancing files among each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories includes moving at least one file from one of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories to another of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories following deletion of at least one other file.

72. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 68 wherein automatically balancing files among each of the plurality of randomly-named cache directories includes determining which of the directories has a least number of files therein.